



**Department of Defense
Civil Defense Division**

News Release

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For Immediate Release

**STRENGTHENING POST AND PIER HOMES AGAINST
EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IS THE SUBJECT OF A FREE
WORKSHOP SATURDAY DECEMBER 5TH IN HILO**

Hawaii County residents can learn recommended retrofits and how to get the information they need to reduce the risk of earthquake structural damage to houses built with post and pier foundations, known locally as *tofu block* foundations.

A workshop, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through State Civil Defense, is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, December 5, 2009 on the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus in the UCB Auditorium. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program will start promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Presentations at the workshop include a preview of an exciting new interactive electronic tool being developed by the University of Hawaii at Hilo that helps select the appropriate retrofit drawings and estimated lists of materials.

The project called *Investigation of Post and Pier Earthquake Damage and Development of Incremental Retrofits for Hawaii Single-Family Residences* was based on numerous field studies of post and pier homes on Hawaii Island. With the help for volunteer homeowners, investigators acquired a wealth of data on this type of construction and the development of retrofits to mitigate against post and pier vulnerabilities, reducing the risk of the structures collapsing in an earthquake.

Presentations at the workshop will be made by Principal Investigator Ian Robertson, Ph.D., who is a Professional Engineer, Structural, and Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and by Co-Principal Investigator Gary Chock, M.S., and Professional Engineer, Structural. Collaborating public outreach for the workshop is Don Thomas, Ph.D., Director of the Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

**THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD REGISTER NO LATER THAN THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 3, 2009. REGISTER VIA EMAIL AT csav@hawaii.edu OR TELEPHONE
THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ACTIVE VOLCANOES AT (808) 974-7631.**

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